Docket No.: 20679-00220-US1

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Antonio Sommariva et al.

Application No.: National Phase of PCT/IB04/002285 Confirma

Confirmation No.: N/A

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: PROCESS FOR THE HIGH YIELD

RECOVERY OF LEAD FROM SPENT LEAD-

ACID BATTERIES WITH REDUCED

ASSOCIATED PRODUCTION OF SLAG AND

GASEOUS EMISSIONS

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.